Government of India and the people at large that this refinery comes up. It is necessary that this refinery must come, and we will do it.

Master Plan for Rain Water Harvesting

*285. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:††
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has formulated a Rs. 24,500 crore master plan for harvesting rain in the entire country to solve country's worsening water crisis;

(b) if so, what are the main features of this proposal;

(c) what is the total amount to be spent for implementing this project; and

(d) by when the work on this project is likely to start and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Metre Volume of surplus monsoon run-off through construction of 39.25 lakh artificial recharge and rooftop rainwater harvesting structures. The report outlines broad framework about feasibility of these recharge structures in various parts of the country.

The details of funding pattern, implementing agencies, etc. are under discussion. In view of this, the schedule for its implementation cannot be indicated at this stage.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, While I appreciate the decision taken by the Government of India to construct 39.25 lakh artificial rooftop rainwater harvesting structures, I would like to ask the

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gulam Nabi Azad.

hon. Minister by when funding pattern and implementing agencies will be finalised. I would also like to know whether the Government has sought the involvement of non-governmental and voluntary organisations for harvestinng rainwater. If so, to what extent, their involvement has been useful. Part (b) of my question is, whether the Government is making any effort to develop new technology in addition to the conventional methods of conserving rainwater in urban areas as well as rural areas.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Member because it is a very appropriate question. In fact, the ground water level in the country is on the decline. It is because of the population pressure, industrial and agricultural activities. Because of all these reasons, in the last 20 years, there has been a decline of four metres in the ground water level in some areas. That is why the Ministry of Water Resources has taken recourse to rainwater harvesting measure. The hon. Member has also asked about the proposal. Sir, it is simply a blueprint and it is a vision of the Ministry. Because if the ground water level goes down in this way, then, in the course of time, by 2025 or 2030, there will be no water at all in the country. As regards the second part of the question, although we earmark a large amount of money, but, actually, it will be completed within a span of ten years. We want to involve people from the ground level to the upper level—from the Water User Associations to the gram panchayat level, then, to the district level and, then, to the State level, In this way, we want to involve all the people so that they can understand the necessity of sustainability of the ground water. And if we do not sustain water now, it is expected that there will be great scarcity of water in the near future. On the question whether we should develop a modern technology or not, I would like to say that, certainly, we are experimenting on it. We have already made some experiments in this regard and we have been successful in Gujarat, Rajasthan and in Delhi itself. Basically, we have attempted to construct structures more in the urban areas than in the rural areas. But, in the course of time, we will surely shift there.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, as the hon. Minister said, we all know that the ground water level is on the decline. With the increase in population, and sometimes, on account of the monsoon failure, it has been observed that special measures have to be taken to increase the renewable water resources, in all possible ways. May I ask the

hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of educating and involving the whole nation in this most important and most needed aspect of water conservation by introducing this as a separate subject in the curriculum? I still remember that my teacher—when I was in primary class—used to say that if you find a water tap running, put it off; If you find a bulb glowing unnecessarily, put it off. That is why, when I went to Japan and America, I would put off the tap. So, if we are educated right from the beginning, from the childhood, I think, it will have a great effect. There is also a need for aggressive electronic and media campaign in this regard. Is something being done in this direction?

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: We have already taken measures in this regard. We have already started awareness campaign throughout the country. We have already covered many districts of the country and we have started fresh water year which has been declared as such by the UNO. The Ministry of Water Resources already has some programmes to involve the school and college students also. We want to involve NGOs also in this regard. We have got a vast country; we have got a diverse topographical and geographical area. In some parts of the country, there is heavy rainfall and in some parts of the country, there is scanty rainfall. So, all these things place us in a very peculiar situation. Sir, that is why we feel that we have to save each drop of water, which is very valuable and valuable than any kind of valuable material.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the background of severe drouhgt and water scarcity in States like Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, the Central Ground Water Board has prepared the most important Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water. This is very nice. For this Master Plan we need Rs. 24,500 crores, I don't know as to how this figure has been arrived at. It has been seen in various newspapers that the Ministry of Water Resources require Rs.24,000 crores for Master Plan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is difficult to mobilise so much money in the Tenth plan. Are you planning to provide some money from the Rural Development Ministry out of the Tenth Plan? Would you make efforts to makes it useful for the States like Rajasthan and other States so that this scheme is made successful?

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: It is a very important question put by the hon. member. I would like to assure you that Water has got five to six husbands just like *Draupadi.* We have got the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture and then the Ministry of Rural Development. We have got all the Ministries. It is not that we have earmarked this amount of Rs. 24,500 crores from our Ministry. I have already told, while answering the question, that we have earmarked this money not from our budget but it is a blueprint, it is a vision of the Ministry to arrest the declining ground water resources. We have to do something.

Banks in Gujarat

*286. SHRI LALIT BHAI MEHTA:††
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding State Banks, Nationalised Banks, Private Banks, Foreign Banks and Urban Co-operative Banks giving their numbers and branches thereof, working in the State of Gujarat as on 31st December, 2002;

(b) the deposits and advances for the years 1998 to 2002 of these banks;

(c) the details of advances made to Government sponsored schemes by these banks from 1998 to 2002;

(d) whether it is a fact that except the Urban Co-operative Bank, other banks have failed to finance the trade, industry, self-employed sector, Government sponsored schemes in Gujarat; and

(e) the steps taken to bridge credit requirement in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):(a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Details regarding number of branches, deposits and advances of State Bank of India and its subsidiaries, nationalised banks, private sector banks, foreign banks and urban co-operative banks in the State of Gujarat is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

---

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Lalit Bhai Mehta.